

RECREATIONAL FIRES
TAKE FIRE SAFETY SERIOUSLY



A recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. If you decide to burn a recreational fire, remember to be considerate of your neighbors by locating the fire pit in an area that won't affect them or violate City Code. The intent of the Recreational Fire Code is to prevent fire hazards for your safety and the safety of your property and adjacent properties.

- Recreational fires are permitted in accordance with the following conditions:
- Use only clean, dry wood.
 - Firewood stacks cannot exceed three feet in diameter by two feet high.
 - Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from anything combustible.
 - Extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
 - No fires from midnight to 7 a.m.
 - A recreational fire must be extinguished if an official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.

For more information, call Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RECREATIONAL FIRE.

BLOOMINGTON
TOP 10

#3 FOR WORKING MOMS

Forbes Woman ranks our metro area as #3 among the 50 largest U.S. cities for factors important to working mothers. The metro area ranked particularly high for health care (#1), school quality (#1), salaries (#10) and a relatively low unemployment rate (#15). To catch up with New York City and Austin, Texas, ahead of us in the #1 and #2 positions, our city needs to do better on child care options (#41 of 50) and number of pediatricians (#30). If Bloomington were ranked separately, it would score higher than the metro area in property crime rate (#25), available parks (#24) and violent crime rate (#13), closing the gap with the highest-ranked cities.

Bloomington-based RSM McGladrey is rated among the 100 best companies for working mothers. WorkingMother.com writes, "Moms who work for this Bloomington consulting firm can count on help in difficult times when they call its free work/life coach, who aids them in resolving financial, family and workplace issues."

ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS



ON PATROL
FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), each year more than 500,000 people in the United States are treated in emergency departments and more than 700 die as a result of bicycle-related injuries. In 2009, Bloomington Police responded to 56 incident calls involving bicycles.

Education is an invaluable tool when it comes to bicycle safety. Whether you're an experienced cyclist who rides to work every day or a recreational cyclist who enjoys the occasional bike ride through the park, safety should be your first priority. The CDC recommends that all adult cyclists take a short class, workshop or otherwise become involved in the local bicycling community to brush up on riding skills, especially if it has been a while since you've cycled regularly.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation recommends bicyclists follow these rules of the road to stay safe:

- Never ride in restricted areas.
- Ride on the road, and in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey all traffic control signs and signals, just as motorists.
- Motorists and bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to each other.
- Signal all turns and strive to ride in a predictable manner.
- Use a headlight and rear reflectors when it's dark. To increase visibility, add a rear flashing light.
- Always wear a helmet.



For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Transportation's website: www.sharetheroadmn.org.



DON'T FORGET FIDO
PETS LEFT IN HOT CARS SUFFER

Never leave an animal in a parked vehicle when the weather outside is warm. Vehicle temperatures can reach 120 degrees or more in just minutes during the summer months, even when the vehicle's windows are partially open. In high temperatures animals can suffer brain damage or die from heatstroke or suffocation.

Minnesota State Law prohibits leaving an animal unattended in a vehicle that may endanger the health or welfare of the animal. Call 911 immediately if you observe this situation and it appears that the animal is in distress.

For more information, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.

RAINWATER GARDENS
WORKSHOPS TEACH THE BASICS

The City of Bloomington and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District are hosting two rainwater garden workshops for Bloomington residents, **Thursday, May 6 and 20, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, in the Bloomington Public Works building, 1700 West 98th Street. Attend and you could win a raffle for a free rain barrel.

Workshops are facilitated by Metro Blooms, a nonprofit gardening organization, and local landscape ecologist Rusty Schmidt. To register, visit www.metroblooms.org.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAINWATER GARDENS.



BRING HOME SOME GREEN
ANNUAL TREE SALE HELPS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES

Each year, the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington's urban forest continues to be one of the community's treasures. In fact, the City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds a public tree sale. Based on last year's sales, 280 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

_____ Autumn Blaze red maple	_____ Hackberry
_____ Imperial honeylocust	_____ Northwood red maple
_____ Prairie Fire crab apple	_____ Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees X \$50 ea. = \$ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 1, 9 - 11 a.m.**
Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



Available tree species include: *Autumn Blaze* red maple, Hackberry, *Imperial* honeylocust, *Northwood* red maple, *Prairie Fire* crab apple and *Snowdrift* crab apple. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees are not guaranteed. For more information, call the Maintenance Division at 952-563-8760.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TREE SALE.